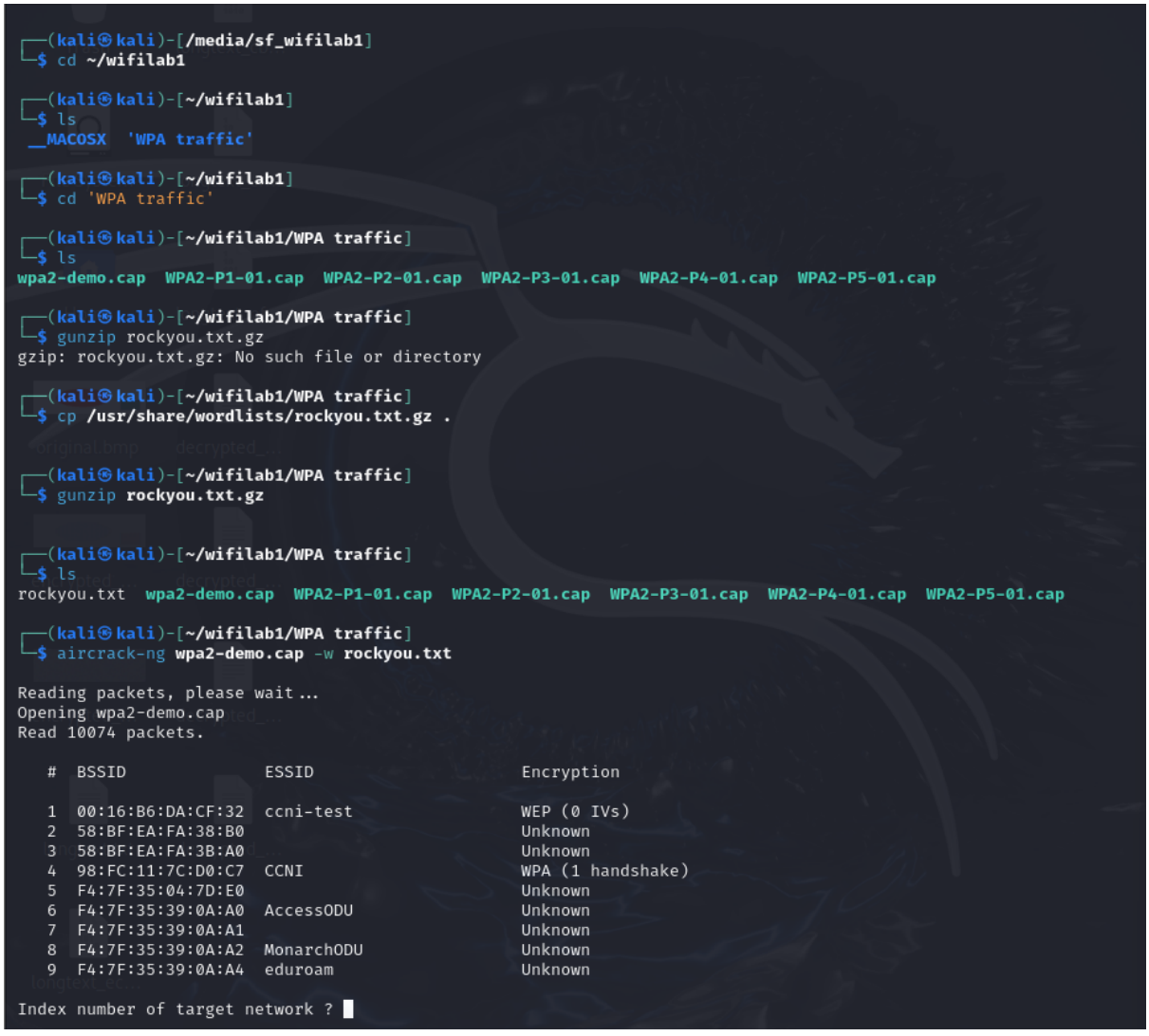
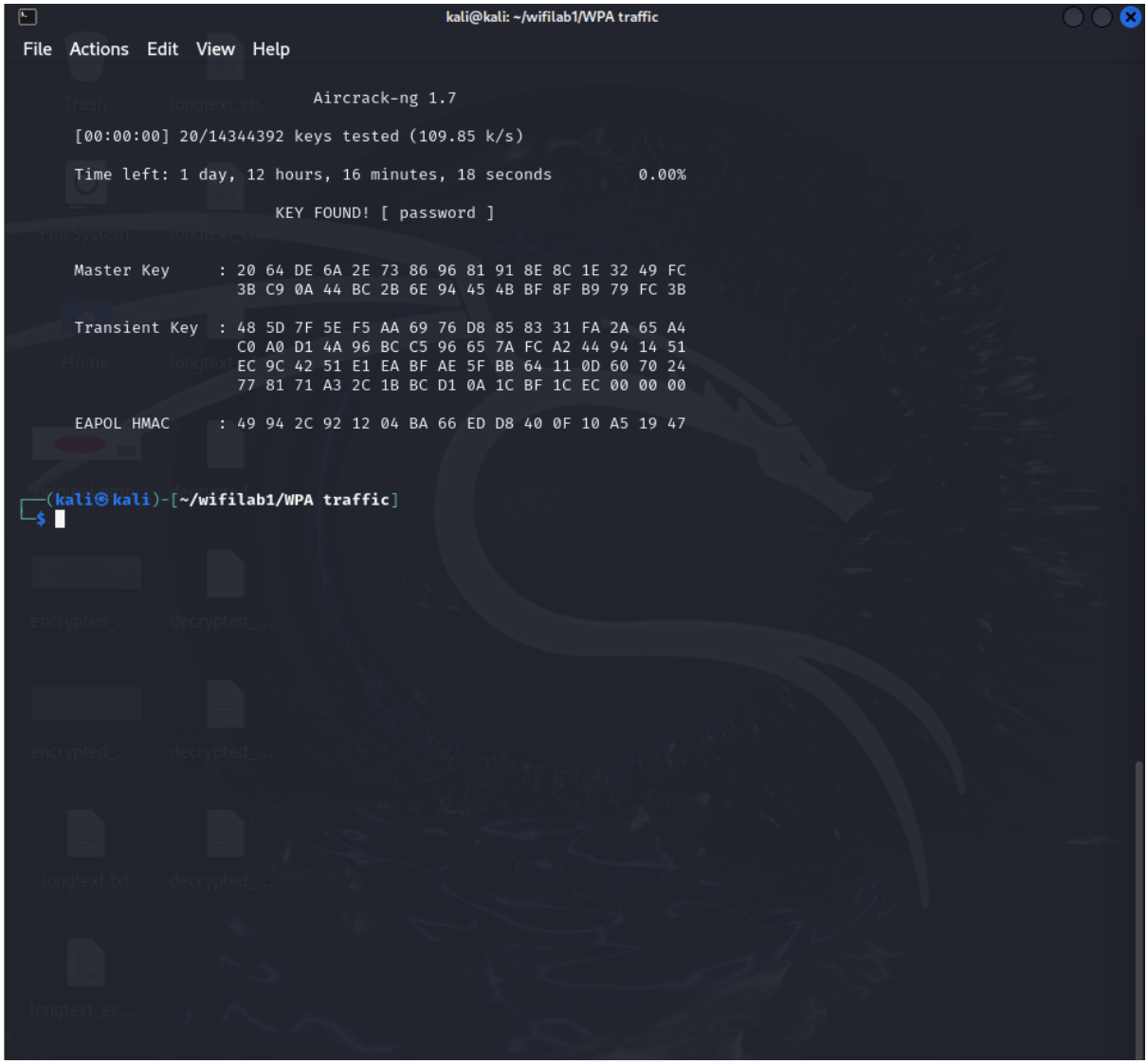
Lab 2 - WPA Security

CYBR 8410: Distributed Systems Security

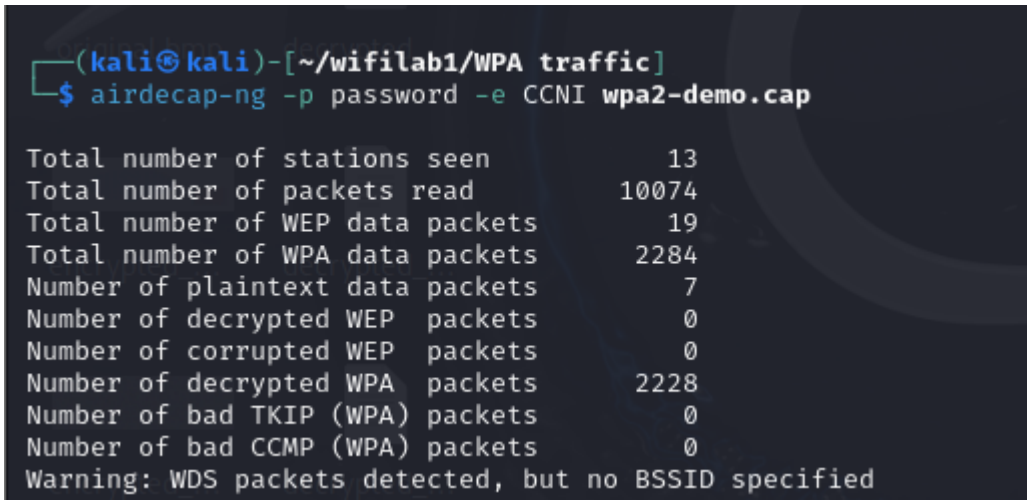
Task 1: In this task, I worked on decrypting a sample WPA2 WiFi capture file and analyzing the network traffic. First, I used a tool called aircrack-ng along with the popular rockyou.txt password list to crack the password from the file named wpa2-demo.cap. The password that was successfully found was password. Once I had the password, I used another tool called airdecap-ng to decrypt the traffic using that password and the Wi-Fi network name ESSID, which was CCNI. This gave me a new file called wpa2-demo-dec.cap, which contained the readable network activity



Next I opened the decrypted file using Wireshark to examine the network traffic I observed various types of communication, including HTTP requests to sites google analytics.com. There were both GET and POST requests, but I did not find any usernames or passwords. I also found DNS queries to many domains showing which websites the user was trying to visit. Additionally I examined TCP traffic including some encrypted HTTPS connections and data exchanges with external IP addresses One of the internal IPs used was 192.168.1.127 and it was communicating with multiple public IP addresses.



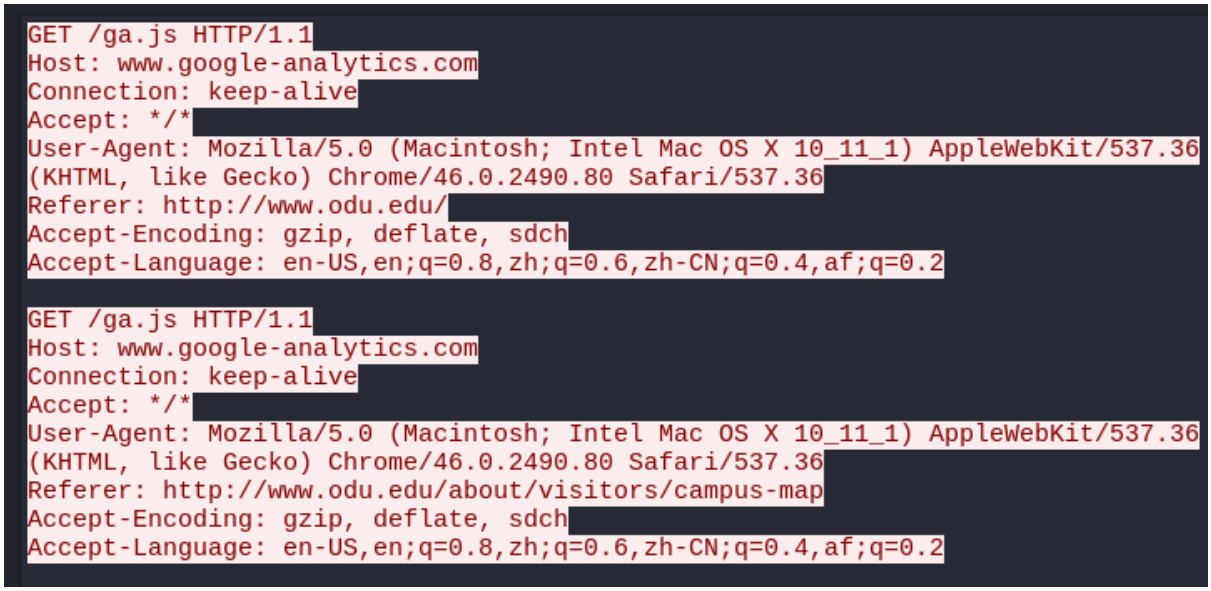
We successfully cracked the WPA password using aircrack-ng, and the key found was password. The capture file was processed correctly, and the handshake was valid



This output from airdecap-ng confirms successful decryption of WPA packets using the provided password and ESSID CCNI from the wpa2-demo.cap file.

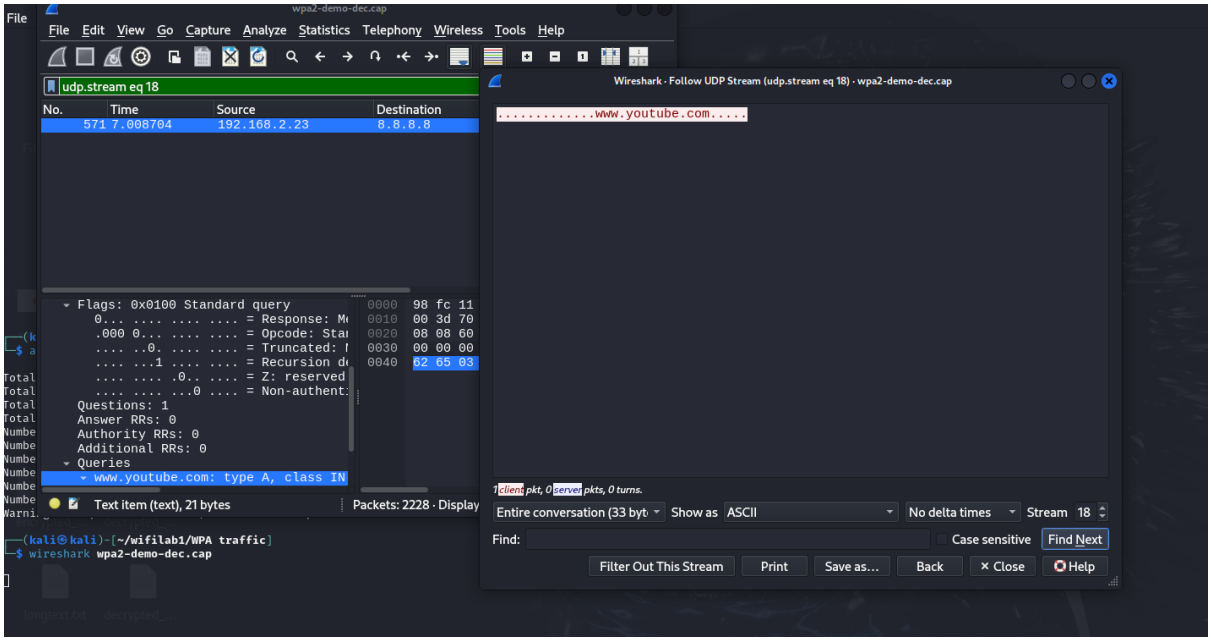
Overall, this task helped me learn how to crack a WiFi password decrypt the traffic and analyze different types of data such as web requests, DNS lookups and TCP connections. Even though I did not find any usernames or passwords in the traffic the analysis showed clear evidence of web browsing and app communication.

HTTP filter



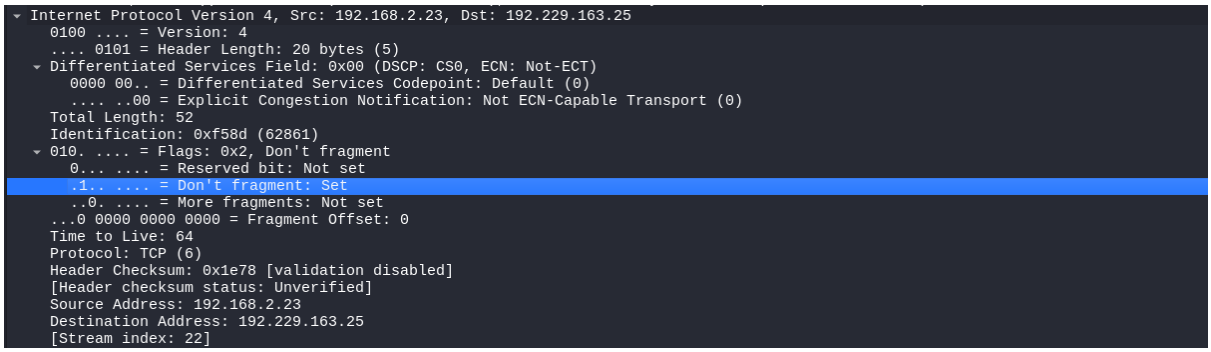
I the HTTP I filtered the traffic using http to view unencrypted web activity. From the packets I observed several GET requests to google-analytics.com. The user was browsing a site that used this service for tracking. The browser useragent showed that the system was using macos and Chrome 46 and the Referer header pointed to pages from odu.edu indicating that the user visited that university website.

DNS filter



This is DNS filter Using the dns filter, I found domain name lookups this shows what websites the user tried to visit. For example there was a dns query for www.youtube.com showing the user

attempted to access YouTube Even though the actual content may be encrypted this query gives insight into browsing behavior.



I also reviewed packet details under the ip protocol. The internal IP address was 192.168.2.23, and I found external destinations like 192.229.163.25. The IP header included flags like Don't Fragment which tells routers not to break the packet into smaller pieces a normal part of IP traffic.

Summary Conclusion for Task A

From this decrypted traffic I was able to identify what websites were being visited what browser and operating system were used, and which domains were being looked up. However I did not find any login credentials or sensitive user data in the HTTP traffic. The information collected mostly reveals general web activity, like visiting educational sites or watching YouTube.

Task 2: For Task B, I was assigned the WPA2 capture file WPA2-P4-01.cap. First I used aircrack-ng and the rockyou.txt wordlist to run a dictionary attack on the capture file The correct Wi-Fi password was successfully found and it was linkinpark. After identifying the password I decrypted the capture file using airdecap-ng and the correct ESSID This produced a decrypted file named WPA2-P4-01-dec.cap which I then analyzed in Wireshark.

Inside the decrypted traffic I found a variety of user activity There were multiple HTTP GET and POST requests sent to different web servers. Some of these requests were to services like ajax.googleapis.com streamoc.music.tc.qq.com, and oth.eve.mdt.qq.com. The GET requests included media file downloads such as .m4a audio files while the POST requests appeared to be sending analytics or tracking data. I also found a HEAD request to www.taobao.com which indicates the client was checking a websites availability. Although these HTTP requests revealed browsing behavior and app activity, I did not find any usernames or passwords in the traffic.

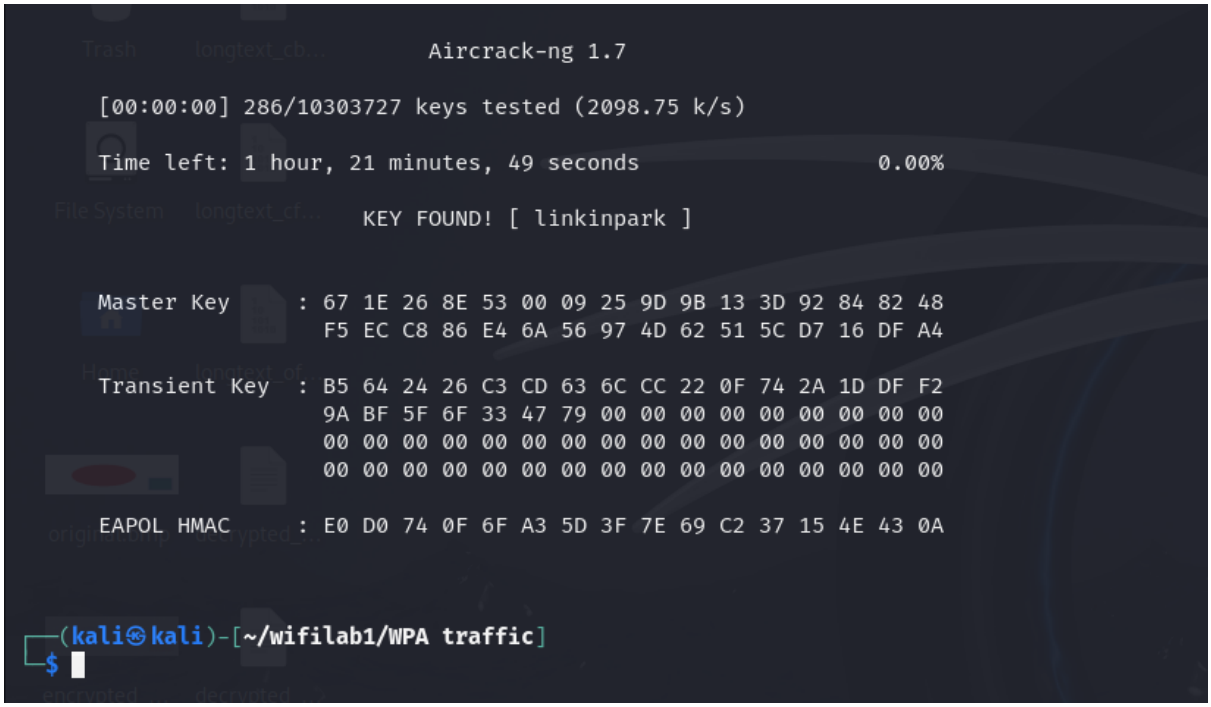
I also examined DNS traffic using filters in Wireshark. The device was performing name resolution for several domains such as ogs.google.com eventlog.beacon.qq.com, and xiaomi.net. One of the DNS packets showed that www.taobao.com was resolved through a CNAME record to a cache server, demonstrating how websites use content delivery networks. In addition I analyzed TCP traffic and found HTTPS sessions over port 443. While the content of those sessions was encrypted, domain names like yahoo.com and gemini.yahoo.com were visible in the initial handshake exposing some user behavior.

```
┌──(kali㉿kali)-[~/wifilab1/WPA traffic]
└─$ aircrack-ng WPA2-P4-01.cap

Reading packets, please wait...
Opening WPA2-P4-01.cap
Read 4225 packets.

   #  BSSID              ESSID                     Encryption

   1  00:16:B6:DA:CF:2F  CyberPHY                  WPA (1 handshake)

Choosing first network as target.

Reading packets, please wait...
Opening WPA2-P4-01.cap
Read 4225 packets.

1 potential targets

Please specify a dictionary (option -w).
```

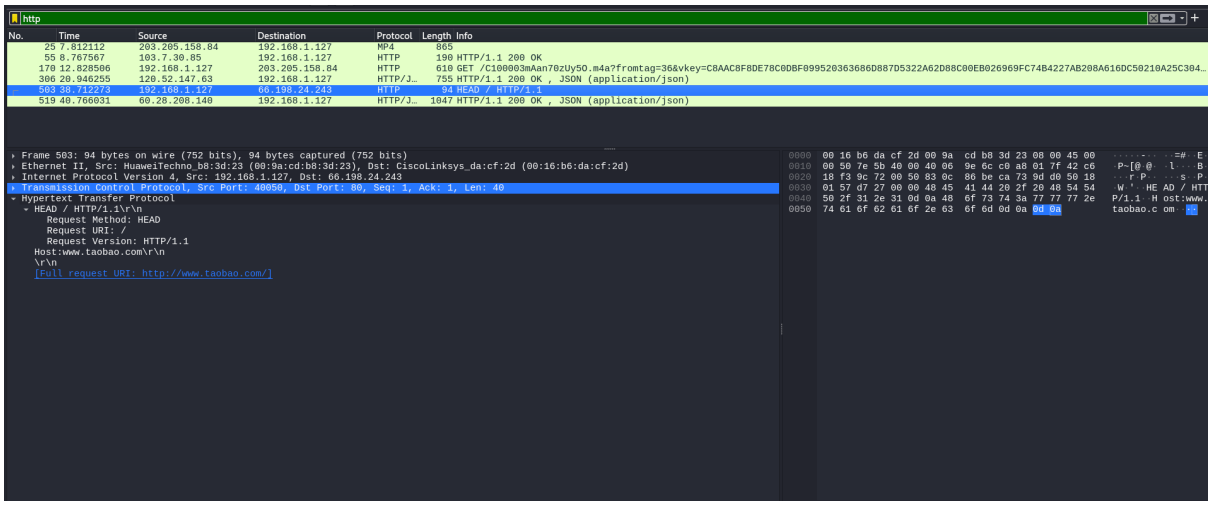
The aircrack-ng command was run on WPA2-P4-01.cap, which contained 4225 packets and identified a Wi-Fi network named CyberPHY with one WPA handshake.

```
┌──(kali㉿kali)-[~/wifilab1/WPA traffic]
└─$ airdecap-ng -p linkinpark -e CyberPHY  WPA2-P4-01.cap

Total number of stations seen            5
Total number of packets read          4225
Total number of WEP data packets         0
Total number of WPA data packets       645
Number of plaintext data packets         0
Number of decrypted WEP  packets         0
Number of corrupted WEP  packets         0
Number of decrypted WPA  packets       522
Number of bad TKIP (WPA) packets         0
Number of bad CCMP (WPA) packets         0
```

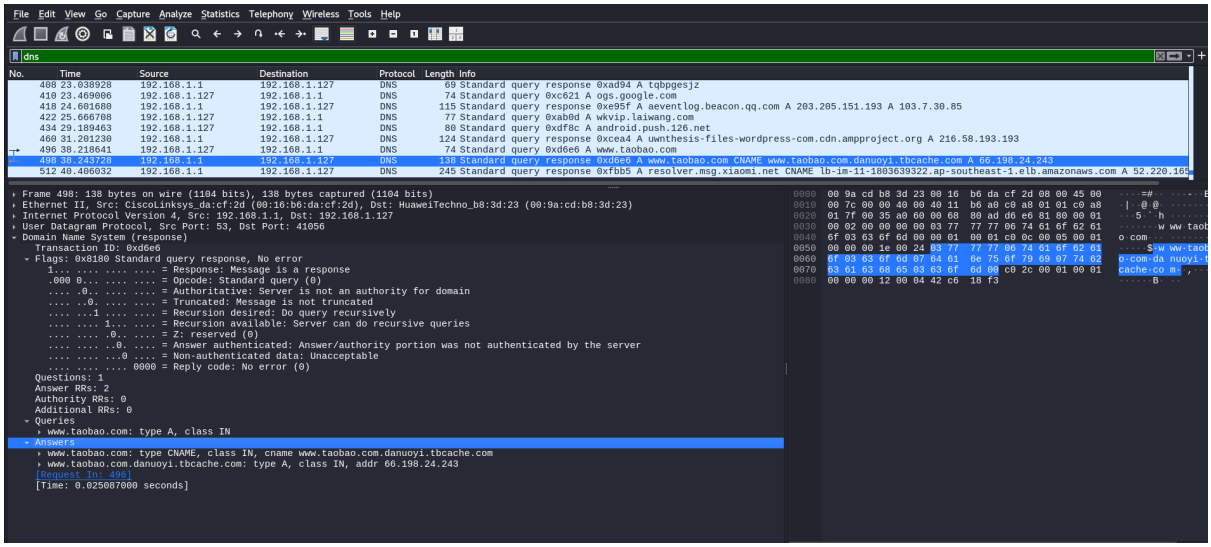
the successful decryption of WPA2 traffic using the password linkinpark and ESSID CyberPHY with the airdecap-ng tool.



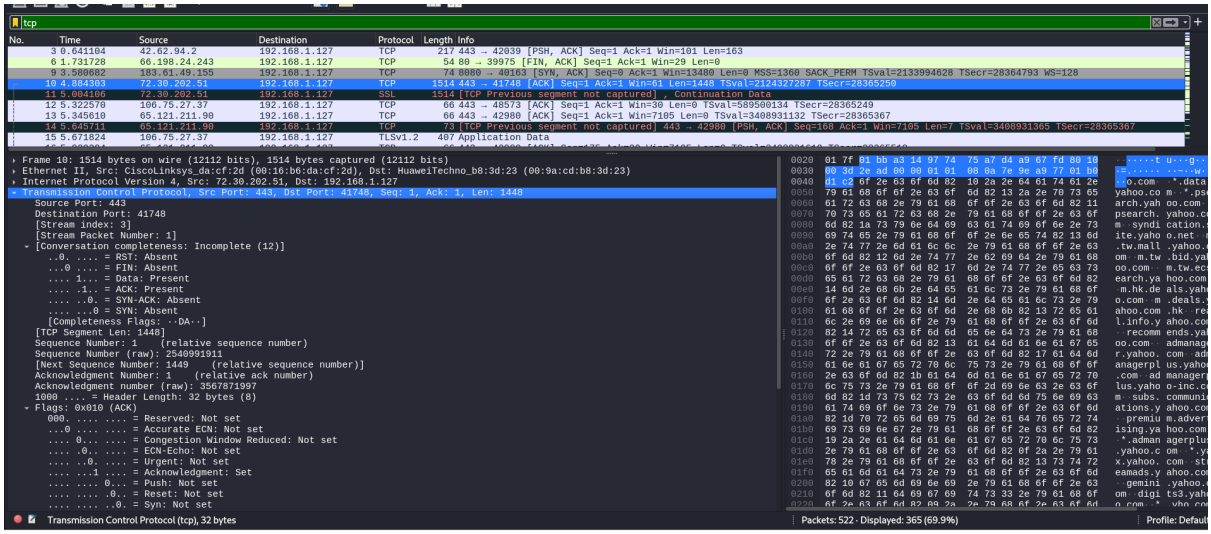
confirms that the WPA handshake was successfully cracked using Aircrack-ng, revealing the Wi-Fi password as **linkinpark**.



This HTTP filter in this I have seen HTTP HEAD request to www.taobao.com made from IP 192.168.1.127 to destination 66.198.24.243



This DNS response in Wireshark shows that the domain www.taobao.com resolves to a CNAME www.taobao.com.danuoyi.tbcache.com, which then resolves to the IP address 66.198.24.243. This indicates the true backend server serving taobao.com s content.



This TCP packet capture shows a communication from IP 72.30.202.51 to 192.168.1.127 over port 443, indicating encrypted HTTPS traffic.

What We Did:

In this lab, we captured and decrypted WPA2 WiFi traffic using a .cap file and dictionary attack tools like Aircrack-ng.
We identified the network ESSID CyberPHY, CCNI and cracked the WiFi password successfully (linkinpark, password).
Using Wireshark, we filtered and analyzed HTTP, DNS, IP, and TCP traffic, looking for patterns, websites visited, and potential plaintext credentials.
We decrypted the captured packets using airdecap-ng and observed decoded traffic to identify important network behavior.
Finally, we followed streams and visualized packet spikes to detect traffic anomalies and confirmed no visible usernames/passwords were leaked.

What We Learned:

We learned how WPA2 handshakes can be captured and cracked using a dictionary attack with proper tools.
We practiced using Wireshark filters to analyze traffic types and dig into packet-level details.
We understood how to detect common traffic patterns, such as DNS queries, HTTP requests, and TCP session flows.
We learned to identify ESSID/BSSID from packet captures and how to decrypt them.
Most importantly, we gained hands-on experience in wireless traffic analysis and how poor encryption can expose sensitive data.